

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of processing papermaking fibers with a multistage array of forward cleaners including a plurality of centrifugal cleaners configured to generate accepts streams and rejects streams which concentrate ~~hydrophobic~~ hydrophobic contaminants, said method comprising:

- (a) feeding a first aqueous feed stream including papermaking fibers to a first stage bank of centrifugal cleaners of said multistage array;
- (b) generating a first accepts aqueous stream and a first rejects aqueous stream in said first stage bank of centrifugal cleaners, said first aqueous rejects stream being enriched in heavy hydrophobic contaminants with respect to said first aqueous feed stream;
- (c) supplying said first rejects aqueous stream to a flotation stage;
- (d) treating said first rejects aqueous stream in said flotation stage to selectively remove hydrophobic waste from said first aqueous rejects stream and produce an intermediate aqueous purified feed stream;
- (e) feeding said aqueous purified intermediate feed stream forward to a second stage bank of centrifugal cleaners of said multistage array, said second centrifugal cleaner being configured to generate a second accepts aqueous stream; and
- (f) combining said first accepts aqueous stream with said second accepts aqueous stream to form a combined accepts stream.

- 21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of thickening said combined accepts stream.
- 22. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said first aqueous feed stream has a consistency of less than about 1%.
- 23. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said first aqueous feed stream has a consistency of from about 0.3% to about 0.9%.
- 24. (Original) The method according to Claim 23, wherein said first aqueous feed stream has a consistency of from about 0.4% to about 0.7%.
- 25. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said multistage array of forward cleaners comprises at least 3 banks of centrifugal cleaners.
- 26. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the hydrophobic contaminants removed from said first aqueous rejects stream by said flotation stage includes an ink composition.
- 27. (Original) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said ink composition is a toner ink composition.
- 28. (Original) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the hydrophobic contaminants removed from said first aqueous rejects stream by said flotation stage comprises an ink composition and stickies.
- 29. (Original) The method according to Claim 28, wherein said ink composition comprises a toner ink composition and said stickies comprise stickies derived from pressure sensitive adhesives.

Claims 30-37 (Canceled)

38. (New) The method according to Claim 20, operative to improve brightness of treated pulp as compared with like pulp subjected to like treatment without flotation treatment of a rejects stream.
39. (New) The method according to Claim 20, operative to reduce effective residual ink concentration in treated pulp as compared with like pulp subjected to like treatment without flotation treatment of a rejects stream.
40. (New) The method according to Claim 20, operative to reduce the stickies content in treated pulp as compared with like pulp subjected to like treatment without flotation treatment of a rejects stream.
41. (New) The method according to Claim 20, operative to improve the dirt removal efficiency of a multi-stage array of forward cleaners as compared with a like system without flotation treatment of a rejects stream.